

NEBRASKA AND KANSAS.

RESOLUTIONS

OF

THE LEGISLATURE OF CONNECTICUT,

IN RELATION TO

The act to organize the Territories of Nebraska and Kansas.

MAY 6, 1856.—Ordered to be printed.

STATE OF CONNECTICUT.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY, *May Session, 1855.*

Whereas the bill organizing the Territories of Nebraska and Kansas was, in itself, premature and uncalled for; in its abrogation of the Missouri Compromise, a needless violation of a time-honored compact; in its passage, pressed with indecent haste upon a reluctant Congress and an outraged country; and, in its results, has awakened dangerous sectional agitation, and led to lawless violence in the Territories themselves;

And whereas, in support of that act, the doctrine has, of late, been promulgated, that the persons inhabiting the Territories of the United States are, or ought to be, within their respective Territorial limits, sovereign for all purposes of legislation, though dependent upon the executive branch of the general government for their judicial and executive administration, and as such a doctrine is believed by the good people of this State to be false in theory and dangerous in practice; therefore,

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened, That the recent act of Congress, entitled "A bill to organize the Territories of Nebraska and Kansas," deserves, as it has received from the people of Connecticut, an unqualified condemnation.

Resolved, That it is not only the right of Congress "to make all needful rules and regulations respecting the Territories belonging to the United States," but it is also the duty of the national legislature to exercise that right in such manner as will best conduce to the lasting welfare of those who are, in future generations, to occupy our vast domain.

And whereas the subject of national legislation for the national Territories is, at the present time, a matter of grave concern to the whole country, and it is proper that the people of each State should, in the spirit of intelligent patriotism, express their sentiments and purposes thereon, and as the fathers of Connecticut did, by their legislative acts, in the years 1774 and 1784, declare, that "the increase of slaves in this State" was "injurious to the poor, and inconvenient," and that "sound policy" did "require that the abolition of slavery should be effected" therein, "as soon as might be consistent with the rights of individuals and the public safety and welfare;" and as the inhabitants of this State have ever had reason to be grateful for the wise foresight by which our beloved commonwealth has been freed from the manifold evils of human bondage, and we believe it to be our duty, as a portion of the American people, to aid in establishing upon a broad and firm foundation the prosperity of the States yet to be added to the confederacy; therefore,

Resolved, That Connecticut will never consent to the extension of slavery over the common domain of the United States; but, on the contrary, believing that the free institutions, which an experience almost coeval with the life of the republic has proved to be good for her, are, and will be good for all future commonwealths, she will strive, to the best of her ability, to exclude the relation of human bondage from the national Territories.

And whereas it appears that one of the Territories of this Union has been invaded by an armed and organized force, for the purpose of destroying the freedom of the elective franchise among the inhabitants thereof, which purpose has been accomplished by brutal violence, and the repetition of the like outrage is openly threatened; therefore,

Resolved, That it is the duty of the general government to protect, even by armed intervention, if necessary, the people of the Territories in the exercise of all their rights, and that the national administration which neglects to perform this duty is recreant alike to the constitution and the best interests of the Union.

And whereas the fugitive slave act of 1850 is, in its requirements, insulting to the spirit of freemen, in its details subversive of State rights, in its operation productive of dangerous sectional agitation, and as a law, is of doubtful constitutionality; therefore,

Resolved, That while the people of Connecticut are prepared to comply with the constitution of the United States, in all its parts, without equivocation or reservation, they will yet insist, in all proper times and places, that an act so justly odious in its character shall be materially modified or wholly repealed.

And whereas, upon most of the topics embraced in the foregoing resolutions, there are and must be differences of opinion, more or less indicated by geographical lines; and whereas false and designing men, taking advantage of that circumstance, have endeavored and are endeavoring to sow the seeds of civil dissension and disunion; therefore,

Resolved, That Connecticut regards the people of the United States as one people, bound together by the ties of a common history, a common glory, and a common destiny; that she cherishes with fraternal

regard each and every State of the Union ; that she loves that Union, and will stand by it, support it and defend it from all assault, at home or abroad, and, in these troubled times, she calls upon the other members of the confederacy, in the spirit of patriotic conciliation, to unite with her in cementing anew the foundations of our common nationality.

Resolved, That copies of the preambles and resolutions, certified by the secretary of state, be transmitted by his excellency the governor to the senators and representatives of this State in Congress, to be laid before the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States, and to the governors of the several States and Territories of the Union, to be laid before the legislative authorities thereof.

Approved June 15, 1855.

STATE OF CONNECTICUT, }
Office of Secretary of State, } *ss.*

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true copy of record in this office.

In testimony whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the seal of said State, at Hartford, this 23d day of June, A. D.
[SEAL.] 1855.

N. D. SPERRY,
Secretary of State.

WOMANLY PRINCIPLE

RESOLUTIONS

THE ARBITRATOR OF WAIVER

1891-1901

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